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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

# AIRGRAM

EXCISE 8-362

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1962 AUG 10 PM 4 23

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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

DECLASSIFIED

1. Berlin/Germany.

While daily reports of "provocations" in West Berlin have appeared in the Soviet press, there have been no references to the increasing incidents in the air corridors in the past week. However, Soviet commentary on the Berlin situation in general has increased.

On July 28, Izvestiya commentator POLYANOV addressed himself to the President's July 24 press conference statements on Berlin and said that the US has neither historical, juridical, or any other bases for rejecting the Soviet free-city proposal. Polyanov warned against Western press presumptions that the Soviet Union is content with the status quo, that a peace treaty would be only a formal act, and Moscow would hesitate in the event of a showdown. He also continued the recent practice of concentrating on the "NATO base" theme, and rejected as formalistic and unreal Western arguments that the Berlin garrisons are not NATO forces.

The release of a "Book of Facts on West Berlin" at an East Berlin press conference has received prominent attention throughout the Soviet press. After initial brief reports of the conference, Izvestiya and Pravda devoted almost full page stories to the "evidence" that West Berlin is being exploited for espionage against the GDR. The articles include photographs and excerpts from the "Book of Facts" but generally avoided drawing attention to the question of air access.

A number of articles also appeared which were designed to bolster the impression that West Berlin is withering on the vine. As in the case of the espionage center theme, the "dying city" has been a standard element in past Soviet propaganda on Berlin. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. Congo.

Premier ADOULA's call for a new constitution providing for a federal system of government was viewed by the Soviets as a significant concession to the demands of TSHOMBE. Soviet despatches covering the announcement claimed that the proposed constitution would preserve the break-away of Katanga and, perhaps, lead to the further division of the country. It was noteworthy, however, that the Soviets refrained from attacking Adoula regarding his recent proposal. Instead, it was asserted that the proposal was the result of pressure from the West, which was allegedly interested in keeping the Congo divided so as to be better able to exploit the natural resources and wealth of the Congo. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

3. Algeria.

The past week's events in Algeria were generally treated in a straightforward fashion, carefully avoiding commentaries which would indicate that the Soviets had thrown their support to any particular faction in the leadership dispute. Instead of unequivocal commentaries of their own, the Soviets appeared content for the moment to summarize statements issued by the Communist Party of France or the Algerian Communist Party. On August 1, for example, the press here noted that the

Algerian Communists expressed the belief that the Political Bureau whose formation was announced in Tlemcen would become a means of a gradual, prolonged political solution of the crisis. The summary published here also noted that the Algerian Communists suggested that the members of the Political Bureau formed in Tlemcen should meet in Algiers to discuss the role of the Bureau, its composition and the steps that should be taken to alleviate the economic crisis. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

4. Disarmament and Nuclear Testing.

Reports from Geneva on the course of the disarmament negotiations stressed that the Soviet proposal calling for the complete elimination of nuclear delivery vehicles in the first stage of disarmament was the only effective way to remove the threat of nuclear war with mass means of destruction. No reaction was yet available on the Mexican and Swedish proposals calling for a deadline on further testing and a ban on atmospheric testing. Meetings held between President KENNEDY and his advisors in Washington were followed closely with the general reaction being that the US is still insisting on on-site international inspections which the Soviet Union contends are unacceptable because they are unnecessary and only desired by the West for espionage purposes. (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

5. Leadership.

N. S. KHRUSHCHEV, wending his way leisurely southwards through the Russian Republic and the Ukraine, dominated the front pages this week, while F. R. KOZLOV appeared to be active behind the scenes. The emphasis in press coverage of the First Secretary's trip struck a nice balance between continuing heavy stress on the problems of agriculture and a tribute to the necessity of continued capital construction.

Khrushchev left Moscow on August 27, in the company of Central Committee Presidium members VORONOV, POLYANSKY, and PODGORNY, to visit farms in Tula and Orel oblasts and an iron-ore mine in Kursk oblast. On the 28th, he was back in his native village of Kalinovka (Kursk oblast), where he delivered a comprehensive dissertation on what needed to be done to improve Soviet agriculture (Pravda, August 3). The official party was joined there by CC-CPSU Presidium candidate-member V. V. SHCHERBITSKY, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukrainian SSR. On the 29th, the group, now augmented by former CC-CPSU Presidium candidate-member D. S. KOROTCHENKO, Chairman of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, appeared at the Kremenchug Hydroelectric Station, which Khrushchev formally opened, despite the fact that the station has been in full operation for a year. In his speech, the First Secretary established norms for the construction and entry into exploitation of large electricity-producing plants and criticized STALIN for refusing to allow collective and state farms to draw their electricity from major electric nets. On the 30th, the group of leaders arrived in Dnepropetrovsk aboard the river-steamer "Dobrolyubov" and inspected a locomotive-repair plant and a tire factory. On the 31st, Khrushchev, now accompanied only by the three Ukrainian leaders, Podgorny, Shcherbitsky, and Korotchenko, was back on the farm in Kherson oblast.



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The press failed to report Khrushchev's whereabouts for the 1st and 2nd of August, leaving foreign observers to speculate whether he had simply gained the privacy of his vacation retreat at Pitsunda in the Crimea or was perhaps conferring with visiting GDR leaders Walter ULBRICHT and Willi STOPH.

Apart from Kozlov and A. P. KIRILENKO, who were busy with a Moscow conference of workers of local RSFSR Party organizations (July 27-29), A. I. MIKOYAN, who received the Archbishop of Canterbury on August 2, was the only other member of the top leadership in evidence. (UNCLASSIFIED)

6. Khrushchev Rationalizes Continuing Heavy-Industry Emphasis..

Khrushchev's speech at Kalinovka on July 28 was published in Pravda only on August 3, perhaps to keep the Party's spokesman in the public eye following the end of his journey by slow stages to Pitsunda. The First Secretary was in his best didactic mood, instructing the Kalinovkaites--and, through them, the collective farm peasantry at large--on any number of agricultural fine points: the pros and cons of castrating young bulls, the desirability of planting strawberries, the necessity of raising the butterfat content of milk, the amount of feed to be expended per kilogram of poultry, the advisability of raising turkeys..

Two points in the speech were of slightly more than routine interest. Khrushchev provided a neat rationalization of the Party's current policy of continuing emphasis upon the priority development of heavy industry. "What do we need? To have our people sufficiently and tastily nourished; cleanly, warmly, and attractively clothed; brightly and comfortably housed; their children studying in school, with day-nurseries and kindergartens for them. And that means that our economy, our technology and culture, must be raised to a high level. Then the enemy will keep his mouth shut. Yes, and to have rockets and hydrogen bombs on top of it all. Then we can live altogether well. [Merry animation, applause]." It was a palatable formulation, but it still meant guns first and butter second.

Khrushchev also referred cautiously to the desirability of mechanizing agriculture as a means of freeing manpower from the farms--a thought that must be much in the minds of the Soviet leadership as it contemplates the gap between agricultural labor-production ratios in the USSR and the West. He did not, however, touch upon the other side of this problem: what to do with the manpower freed from agriculture; Soviet industry also suffers from overemployment. (UNCLASSIFIED)

7. Doctors' Plot Recalled.

In commenting on a dispute over the merits of an alleged cancer cure, the CC-CPSU chose to recall the Doctors' Plot of 1952-53--apparently the first high-level public reference to the affair since the July, 1954, report on the trial and execution of former police official M. D. RYUMIN. The Party's motives in recalling the unsavory affair were obscure, but it appeared likely that the Central Committee's gratuitous reference to the Plot (Pravda, August 1) might have been calculated to reassure Soviet scientists that the Party does not intend to intervene in areas calling for high technical competence. (Embassy's A-162, August 3.) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)



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8. RSFSR Conference of Workers of Local CP Organs.

A conference of workers of local Party organs of the RSFSR, which met in Moscow on July 27-29, was addressed by A. P. Kirilenko, who besides being a CPSU-CC Presidium member is a First Deputy Chairman of the CC Bureau for the RSFSR, on "Measures for the Improvement of Party Leadership of Industry, Transport, Construction, and Urban Economy." CPSU-CC Presidium member Frol Kozlov was also reported to have made a speech, the contents of which were not revealed. Pravda attributed to the Leningrad delegate a reference to CPSU-CC instructions on the improvement of CP control over scientific-research and planning organizations in that city. The less widely circulated Sovetskaya Rossiya, in an otherwise more detailed and frank report, did not carry this passage.

The first references to the necessity for tighter control over Leningrad scientific and planning organizations appeared in the central Soviet press in late April, near the time of former Leningrad oblast First Secretary I. V. SPIRIDONOV's removal from the CPSU-CC Secretariat (Embassy's A-106, July 20).

More recently, the parlous state of affairs in Leningrad has been spotlighted by the Central Committee's release of charge and counter-charge on the KACHUGIN cancer-cure controversy, also a blemish, it would seem, on the effectiveness of Party control during Spiridonov's regime there. (UNCLASSIFIED)

9. Crackdown on Economic Offenders Takes a New Turn.

Soviet news items during the week illustrated both old and new techniques in the Soviet drive against economic offenders.

In Kaunas (Sovetskaya Litva, July 31), Moyseyus TSUKERMANAS and Antanas SHAKALIS were sentended to be shot for their alleged leadership of a 300,000-ruble currency-speculation ring. As in several previous instances, at least one of the defendants had a recognizably Jewish name.

In a newer approach to the problem, the Presidiums of the Supreme Soviets of the RSFSR, the Moldavian SSR, and the Turkmen SSR have issued identically worded decrees authorizing the seizure of houses and dachas built or acquired with illegally acquired funds or materials.

COMMENT:

For several months, Soviet newspapers have been telling their readers of abuses in the ownership and acquisition of dachas. During the past few weeks, these stories have emphasized the question of where the violators, usually pictured as economic parasites, acquired their funds. The current series of decrees is apparently the product of a legal study that has been going on for at least three months in an effort to find ways and means by which people might be required to divulge the sources of their wealth (Embassy's D-1099, June 8). (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

NAVY

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For the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim:

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